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THE
L I F E
O F
JEMMY TWITCHER.

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THE
L I F E,
ADVENTURES, INTRIGUES,
AND
A M O U R S
OF THE CELEBRATED
J E M M Y T W I T C H E R,
EXHIBITING

MANY STRIKING PROOFS

To what Baseness the Human Heart is capable of Descending,

THE WHOLE FAITHFULLY COMPILED FROM
AUTHENTICK MATERIALS.

THO' BORN TO TITLES, AND BY FORTUNE BLEST,
VIEW HERE A PEER, THE PUBLIC SCORN AND JEST;
YET FROM HIS VICES WE MAY REAP SOME GAIN:
—THE MEANEST REPTILES DO NOT CRAWL IN VAIN.

L O N D O N :

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near *Temple Bar, Strand.*

THE HISTORY OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

AND OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

AND OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

LONDON

THE L I F E, &c.

CHAP. I.

Which consists of matters previous to the birth of our Hero—His parents make a journey into Huntingdonshire, where his mother proposes to lay in. A singular adventure which his father met with.

PERSONAGES of consequence are not to be introduced upon the Theatre of the World, without a greater degree of parade and magnificence than marks the entrance of vulgar beings : and it is in pursuit of the justness of this observation, that we think it necessary to apprize the public of several circumstances which happened before our Hero made his public appearance on the stage of life : though we are apprehensive that some of our readers will charge us with being tedious in our narrative ; while others, and we hope the majority of them, will thank us for gratifying their curiosity with regard to the following particulars.

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It is not to be denied that the singular being whose story will be found in the following pages, owes his origin to noble parents, and might himself have done honour to the rank of nobility, if the rectitude of his heart had borne any proportion to the elevation of his birth.

The Parents of our Hero were not less distinguished by their rank in life, than by the worthiness of their sentiments, and the dignity of their conduct. Greatness and goodness were, with them, synonymous terms; and they appeared to have no other sense of the superiority which their station gave them, than the superior power of conferring happiness on others. Such were the amiable pair to whom *Jemmy Twitcher* is indebted for that birth which he has taken all possible pains to disgrace. The father, however, was not among the richest of the nobility; the annual rents of his estates scarcely exceeding four thousand pounds; but what his lordship wanted in the article of fortune, he possessed in that of prudence; and made a more respectable figure in life with his moderate income, than some of our nobility have done with ten times the sum; much more, indeed,
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than the Duke of Bloomsbury does with a fortune near twenty times as ample.

When our Hero's parents had been married about ten months, the Lady found herself in a state of pregnancy; a circumstance that afforded inexpressible pleasure to her Lord, as well as to herself. Alas! how little do short-sighted mortals know how to judge of what will promote their own happiness! Could Lord and Lady ***** have conceived how much they should have reason to blush for their future son, they would have been far from considering the circumstance of the pregnancy as a happy one; on the contrary, they would have lamented the cruelty of their fate, which had destined them to own a child, the relationship to whom could yield nothing but disgrace! But it is not fit that mortals should read their own destiny; and Heaven has kindly closed from our Eyes the book of future events, that we may not be guilty of repining at its ordinations. It would indeed be a dreadful thing, if man was permitted to know his future fate; for it is scarcely to be supposed that, if this was the case, there would be one happy man or woman in the world: since those to whom future

evils were allotted, would lose all the enjoyment of the present moment, in the dread of those evils ; and the children of better fortune would be miserable indeed, from the consideration that the hour of happiness was not yet arrived :—thus the former would be wretched from the dread, and the latter unhappy from the non-arrival of the future period. But Providence has kindly decreed it otherwise ; and in the Wisdom and Benevolence of that determination, it is our duty most chearfully to acquiesce.

In a few weeks after Lady ***** had declared herself with child, she intreated his Lordship to think of retiring to Huntingdonshire, as she chose rather to lie-in at their country-seat, than at their house in town. A modern fine lady will perhaps wonder at this choice, and rank her ladyship among those few unfashionable women of quality, who prefer the peaceable enjoyment of rural pleasures to all the noise and hurry of the town. She was indeed a lady of this stamp ; and had too much good sense to conceive that the perpetual bustle of visitings and routs was proper for a Woman in her situation. But my fair readers will be apt to urge, that her Ladyship ran a risque of being ill-attended at
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the time of her delivery ; as it cannot be supposed that Huntingdonshire afforded such a choice of excellent and skilful men-midwives as abound in the metropolis.

Softly, my good Ladies—be not so hasty in drawing conclusions.—At the period we are now writing of, the gentlemen of the faculty were not admitted to such intimate connections with the fair Sex as they are at present ; nor was it then quite so common as it now is, for the Physician or Surgeon to know more of a Lady's secrets than her husband. But if this had been the fashion ; if those times had been disgraced by this indelicate custom, Lady ***** was a woman of sentiments far too refined, of too pure a disposition of mind, to have yielded to the torrent, which, to the disgrace of the present times, has at length borne down all decent decorum before it ; except, indeed, in the instance of one particular Lady, whose example, one would imagine, the ladies of rank and fashion would be most ambitious of following.

In a word, Lady ***** was one of those unfashionable mortals who had no small dependance on the assisting hand of Providence ;
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and, for the rest, thought herself as safe in the care of a good old experienced Woman, as her Maternal ancestors had been for ages past. Nor did his Lordship want that refinement of sentiment which dictated the impropriety of advising any other than female-attendants in the moment of Nature's distress.

Lady ***** had no sooner signified her wish that she might reside in the country till after her delivery, than preparations were made for the whole family to leave London. Three servants were dispatched to the country-seat, to get every thing ready for the reception of its noble owners; and in less than a fortnight they left London, with their whole retinue: a retinue, though not in the highest stile of splendor and elegance, yet such as became an English Nobleman, who was wise enough not to live beyond the bounds of his fortune.

A coach and six, which held Lord and Lady ***** with a gentleman and Lady of their acquaintance, followed by a coach and four with their principal female domestics, and attended by his Lordship's gentleman and four other servants on horseback, composed the whole of their train. It was not at that time the custom to
ride

ride post when persons were in no hurry, nor to kill five or six horses in the course of a journey, merely to shew that those who were inclined to make fools of themselves had it in their power to do so. People of fashion then travelled as they lived—in the family way—and ran no more risk of breaking their necks by the frolics of the road, than of ruining their fortunes by the extravagance of their tables.

Our company left London on a fine afternoon towards the end of the month of May ; and, after a stage of eighteen miles, reposed themselves for the night. They set forward at a moderate rate, the next morning ; and sleeping another night on the road, arrived at the place of their destination two hours before dinner time, on the third day. This Journey, by means of fresh sets of horses at every short stage, and at the hazard of their lives, a pair of our modern nobility would perform in about eight hours ; to the great fatigue of themselves, and the evident loss of the Inn-keepers on the road, who, of late years, have justly complained that they cannot live by what trifling profits are to be gleaned from these birds of passage.

Pre-

Previous preparations having been made for the reception of the Guests, they sat down, without fatigue, and with good appetites, to one of those comfortable family-dinners, the enjoyment of which exceeds that of all the luxury of a birth-day feast. Decent plenty covered the table, while health and satisfaction dwelt on every countenance. If the Mistress of the Mansion was charmed with the polite and chearful manner in which her Lord had complied with her request of residing in the Country, his Lordship was not less transported, at the thought of having gratified the wishes of the Woman, whose happiness was even dearer to him than his own. The day was spent in decent mirth; and gratitude to that Providence which indulged them with the means of being thus happy, crowned the family banquet.

On the succeeding day, his Lordship, and his friend, whom we shall distinguish by the name of Moreton, arose with the earliest dawn, to enjoy the beauties of a May-Morning; and had already strolled three miles from home, when the sun began to gild the tops of the hills. They instantly gained an eminence, and were contemplating the elegance of the
scene

scene around them, when they beheld at the foot of a tree, at no great distance from the place where they stood, the body of a man, stretched, as if lifeless, on the ground. They lost not a moment in repairing to the place, where they found a Young fellow, of the gentlest appearance, who had hanged himself in his garters : but the bough to which he had tied himself breaking, he had fallen to the ground before he was quite dead. He had however, hung till he was senseless — the garter still remained fast about his neck, and he would, probably, never have opened his eyes again, if these gentlemen had not come so opportunely to his relief. Mr. Moreton happily knew a little of Phlebotomy ; and while his Lordship loosened the bandage from the stranger's neck, that Gentleman prepared to give him farther relief by bleeding. He had scarcely taken away two ounces of blood, when the unhappy man opened his eyes, and, though he could not speak, seemed by his looks to thank them for their well-timed assistance. Mr. Moreton was cautious of taking away too much blood, as the gentleman seemed in a very low and languid state of body. He therefore bound

up his arm, and began to confer with his Lordship on the best method of affording him farther relief. At this instant they looked round them, and beheld a horse, with saddle and bridle on, feeding at a small distance from the place where they stood. This object had entirely escaped their notice before; but they could not doubt of its belonging to the gentleman whose life they had probably been the means of saving; nor if they had doubted it, would they have hesitated a moment to borrow the use of the beast on so urgent an occasion. While his Lordship supported the Stranger, Mr. Moreton brought the horse to the spot. The unhappy man had by this time so far recovered, as to judge of their kind intentions towards him; but he could not yet speak. He waved his hand, however, in such a manner, as they conceived to be a request that they would permit him to recover yet farther, before they placed him on the horse. They waited with patience about fifteen minutes, when his Lordship recollecting that he had a bottle of salts in his pocket, applied it to the stranger's nose. This produced a speedy, and a happy effect; he thrice attempted to speak, and was at length

length able to utter the word *thanks* — this he repeated several times, but seemed unable to say more. Mr. Moreton then asked, if he would be placed on the horse — He faintly answered, Yes. His Lordship, whose anxiety for the stranger's welfare had not yet permitted him to consider where he was, now looked round him, and soon recollected, that he had a tenant, a poor farmer, whose house was within half a mile of the spot. They instantly mounted the invalid on the horse, and walking one on each side of it, to support him, they proceeded by slow degrees to the farm-house, where they were no sooner arrived, than the Stranger was put to bed; and his Lordship having given the necessary directions for his being taken care of, left the house with his friend, promising to return towards the Evening.

C H A P. II.

The History of Mr. Willmore. Farther particulars of what happened previous to the birth of our Hero. His mother encounters an Accident. Her Dream. The birth of Femmy Twitcher, and an account how he was disposed of in his Infancy.

LORD ***** and Mr. Moreton had no sooner left the farm-house, than they bent their way immediately to his Lordship's seat, which they reached soon after seven o'clock; having previously determined not to mention a word of the incident they had met with, lest it should have an ill effect on Lady *****'s Spirits. They had not long arrived before the Ladies made their appearance; and their breakfast was on the table before eight o'clock. Let not our modern fine Ladies wonder at this early hour of breakfasting; but remember that this circumstance happened more than forty years ago, that it was in the Country, and in the house of a nobleman, who knew that time might be employed in a more useful manner than in spending the morning in bed, the afternoon in drinking, and the night in Card-playing.

Break-

Breakfast being dispatched, our happy and agreeable Company sallied forth into the garden, to entertain themselves with surveying the beauties of nature, in that month when she puts on her gayest livery. In this rational manner did they spend several hours, and seemed not to know how swift the moments flew, when a servant came to let them know that dinner was ready. They obeyed the summons—the repast was plentiful, but not luxurious—they enjoyed their meal in a manner to which the professed Son of Luxury is an utter stranger; and, when they had pledged each other in a glass of friendship, arose from table with a cheerfulness that did credit to the innocence of their hearts.

They had already taken a turn in the gardens and adjacent meadows, when his Lordship invited Mr. Moreton to ride over a part of the Estate, to view the improvements he had been making. This was a hint that it was time to think of returning to the farm-house, to enquire after the welfare of the person whom they had so happily relieved in the morning. Mr. Moreton readily accepted his Lordship's invitation;

invitation; and, having conducted the ladies to the dwelling-house, they instantly mounted their horses, and taking a circular-ride through several of his Lordship's grounds, soon gained the road which led to the farm-house that contained their quest.

They had no sooner arrived at the house, than the good Woman ran to the door, exclaiming, ' O, my Lord, O, Sir, I am glad you are ' come—the gentleman longs to thank you for ' your charitable kindness !' They immediately entered farmer Hudson's little habitation, where they found the Gentleman already well enough to sit up in his bed. Persons who have conferred an obligation seldom stand upon ceremony. His lordship and Mr. Moreton seizing each a hand of the stranger, congratulated him on the appearance of his speedy recovery. He seemed highly pleased with their kind compliments, but wholly unable to express his gratitude. A big tear stood in either eye, while others trickled down his cheeks. His Lordship advised him to compose himself, and left the room for a few moments, to give way to those emotions of nature, which, not to feel and acknowledge, is
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to be less than Man. On his Lordship's return, the Stranger, who had considerably recovered, overwhelmed his deliverers with such a profusion of grateful acknowledgements, that they had no reason to doubt the original purity of his sentiments, or his sincere contrition for the crime which he had been guilty of.

As he was now tolerably well in spirits, his Lordship joined Mr. Moreton in requesting he would relate such of the particulars of his life as he thought proper; and, in particular, the fatal incident which reduced him to the Melancholy situation in which they had found him in the morning. With this request he instantly complied in the following Words.

‘ My name, Gentlemen, is Willmore—I am
 ‘ the only son of Sir Harry Willmore of this
 ‘ County—If your residence be in this neighbourhood, Gentlemen, you cannot but know
 ‘ something of my family—[His Lordship
 ‘ bowed].—It was no disgrace to be acquainted
 ‘ with the Willmores till this fatal morning. My
 ‘ mother, Heaven be praised, is removed from
 ‘ this fleeting world, and cannot be acquainted
 ‘ with the follies and misfortunes of her son.
 ‘ After

' After Sir Harry had given me as good an edu-
 ' cation, by means of domestic tutors, as he
 ' conceived necessary to fit me for the university,
 ' I was removed from under his paternal eye to
 ' — college in Cambridge, where I have now
 ' been four years, and may boast of having
 ' made some proficiency in my studies. About
 ' a year ago it was my misfortune to become
 ' acquainted with two young men of the first
 ' rank in the University; and by their advice
 ' and example I have been led into almost all
 ' the follies and vices that one of my age can
 ' be supposed capable of practising... but to
 ' the pernicious practice of gaming it is that I
 ' principally owe my ruin. The first two
 ' months of our career robbed me of more mo-
 ' ney than my father's annual allowance; yet
 ' I assure you, Gentlemen, that Sir Harry is a
 ' bountiful man, and my stipend was amply suf-
 ' ficient for any youth of my rank in life.
 ' When the Gaming-table had stripped me of
 ' all my Cash, I had recourse to my father for
 ' more. For a long while I was amply sup-
 ' plied; but my demands at length grew so nu-
 ' merous and exorbitant, that my father thought
 ' proper to withhold all farther supplies, till I
 ' gave him some tolerable account of what was
 ' become of the large sums of money I had al-
 ' ready

ready squandered. It is shocking to think;
 Gentlemen, it is disgraceful to reflect what piti-
 ful excuses I made, and what low arts I put in
 practice, to extort still farther remittances from
 the bounty of my Father. Sometimes I suc-
 ceeded; but the sums I could raise were in-
 stantly squandered away at the Gaming-table.
 At length, about four months ago, my father
 determined to supply me no farther. Since
 that period I have contracted debts to a con-
 siderable amount. It is not difficult for the only
 son of a man of large fortune to find Credit at
 Cambridge. There is scarce a street in the
 town, or a college in the University, in which
 I have not a Creditor. At length, how-
 ever, all these resources failed me. The
 thoughtless extravagance of my life made men
 of generosity cautious of trusting me. As the
 last effort to redeem my fortune, as the dernier
 resort of despair, I laid my sacrilegious hands
 on a set of valuable trinkets and jewels, which
 my dying mother bequeathed, as the dearest
 pledge of her love and affection. These I
 converted into Cash, and in one evening was
 stripped of it all! O! how did I curse my
 fate! This last deed shocked me more than
 all the former, and determined me to end a

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' being no longer supportable. With this view
 ' I hired a horse, and left Cambridge in the dead
 ' of the night. Alas! what have I not suffered
 ' since that fatal hour. I have been quite
 ' distracted — so lost in my own melancholy re-
 ' flections, that I cannot certainly say how many
 ' nights it is since I quitted the University — pos-
 ' sibly three or four — but since that time I have
 ' not been in bed, till your Charity, Gentlemen,
 ' placed me here this morning. Though I left
 ' Cambridge with a determination, as I thought
 ' a fixed one, of putting a speedy end to my life
 ' and troubles together; yet coward nature re-
 ' volted, or, possibly, the remains of a Virtuous
 ' and religious Education withheld my hand. In
 ' one moment I thought of returning to my fa-
 ' ther: but, in the next, resolved to perish
 ' rather than confess my Crimes. Having
 ' Wandered till I had spent the last shilling, (for
 ' I drank spirituous liquors wherever I could
 ' meet with them,) I threw the bridle over my
 ' horse's neck, permitting the beast to take his
 ' own Course; but resolved not to survive many
 ' hours. I recollect that it was late in the
 ' Evening, when I gave the beast his choice
 ' where to wander; and I suppose hunger carried
 ' him out of the high road, for I do not remem-
 ' ber

' ber to have baited him since I left Cambridge.
 ' All I know is, that I past the night in horrors
 ' not to be conceived ; and as soon as I beheld
 ' the rising sun, finally determined on the horrid
 ' deed of which you, Gentlemen, were in some
 ' degree Witnesses— Having placed the horse
 ' under the tree, I stood upright on the saddle,
 ' and attempted the Commission of a crime,
 ' which Heaven, in its wisdom, has prevented.
 ' You know the rest, better than I can inform
 ' you. I have only to thank you, gentlemen,
 ' in the sincerest manner ; to solicit your advice
 ' how to regulate my future conduct ; and to
 ' hope that my crimes, great as they are, will
 ' not be found beyond the reach of mercy.'

Here young Willmore left off speaking,
 while he wiped from his face the tears of
 gratitude and penitence, that flowed in abun-
 dance. The friendly Auditors having offered
 the afflicted Youth their best advice, and con-
 gratulated him on the signal providence that
 had preserved his life ; his Lordship pro-
 ceeded to inform him who he was, and pro-
 mised not to desert his cause, till he had effect-
 ed a perfect reconciliation between him and
 his father. This he soon did ; and in three

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days

days time young Willmore returned to his father's house. All past matters were forgotten in the joy that Sir Harry felt on his son's narrow escape from Death. The Youth did not return to the University; but all his debts were speedily discharged. After two years he married a very amiable young Lady, with whom he now enjoys the paternal Estate. The Old Gentleman has been dead many Years: but the Son (himself at this time far advanced in life, and surrounded by a worthy offspring,) fails not to pay the most grateful tribute of affection to his father's memory.

Let us now Return to our History. Lord ***** and Mr. Moreton having settled the method of proceeding respecting Mr. Willmore, left that Gentleman at the farmhouse, and returned to his Lordship's Seat, highly satisfied with having thus discharged the duties of the Day. Mrs. Benson, the Friend and Companion of Lady *****, was soon acquainted with the particulars of the abovementioned adventure: but it was thought prudent to keep the knowledge of it from her Ladyship, till after her delivery, when she likewise joined in the general joy on that occasion.

Thus

Thus the days and the Weeks glided cheerfully on, in acts of friendship and hospitality, enlivened by the innocent amusements of the Country. About two months after their arrival in Huntingdonshire, on a warm evening in the month of July, when Lord ***** had several visitors at his seat, he proposed a party of fishing, as an amusement for the Ladies. This was no sooner mentioned than assented to. At the bottom of the Garden was a noble fish-pond, surrounded by sloping banks of the finest Verdure. The Ladies being furnished with the necessary implements, took their seats round the pond, and began to enjoy their sport, while the gentlemen employed themselves in furnishing them with bait. The pond being well stocked, they drew up plenty of the Scaly fry; but they had not been long at their diversion, before an accident happened, that in an instant put a stop to all their mirth. A fish of considerable size having fastened itself to Lady *****'s hook, she arose from her seat to indulge its motions, till, being fatigued with struggling to get loose, she might the more securely bring it to land. All eyes were upon her, and every mouth pronounced the praise of the noble fisherwoman. Incautiously, she went too near the edge of the pond;

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pond; and the fish making a sudden effort with his whole strength, while she held the rod fast in her hand, a tuft of grass and earth on which her foot rested giving way, she fell at once almost into the middle of the pond. Instantly his Lordship, Mr. Moreton, and two other gentlemen, plunged in to her assistance—the water was as deep as their necks—and they but confounded one another in their endeavours to save her—at length, however, Moreton had the happiness of bringing her to shore; and the gentlemen found no great difficulty in regaining the land. Her Ladyship was almost without signs of life:—but being immediately put to bed, she soon recovered her senses; and physicians being instantly sent for, she was the next day pronounced to be out of danger. Her indisposition, however, continued for several days, during which the tender anxiety of her noble husband may be much better conceived than expressed: and even when she was well enough recovered to go abroad, and seemed to feel no ill-consequences from the accident, his Lordship was still dreadfully apprehensive that the Child with which she was pregnant, might be affected and injured by the mother's misfortune. They were obliged to wait the
 event

event with patience, and that event convinced them that his Lordship's fears had groundless.

Soon after her Ladyship's recovery a circumstance happened, which was considered a prognostic of the future character of the Countess with which she laboured; but which we recite, more from a strict regard to historical truth, than from any faith we have in Omens and prognostications. But be this as it may, the good Women of the neighbourhood, who had heard her Ladyship's dream from the Maid-servants, did not fail to draw very unfavourable conclusions from the substance of it.

Lord ***** being gone to London for a few days on business of importance, in the middle of the second night of his absence, her Ladyship awoke in great perturbation of mind, and pulling the bell with unusual violence, was immediately attended by Mrs. Benson, and her female domestics. They found her Ladyship in a most dreadful condition; insensible of her situation, trembling so that the bed shook under her, and bathed in cold sweats, that succeeded each other with the utmost rapidity.

It

was near a quarter of an hour before Benson could make her sensible that she was really safe at her own seat in the chaise: but when, at length, from the faces of other objects about her, she was convinced of that truth, she became more calm, and soon burst into a flood of tears, which afforded her instant relief.

When she became tolerably easy, Mrs. Benson, who had determined to sit by her during the remainder of the night, begged, in the most pressing manner, that she would relate what had happened to discompose her, as the most effectual method to recover the tranquillity of her mind. With this request her Ladyship did not hesitate to comply; and without ordering the servants out of the room, spoke as follows. — ‘When I came to bed last night, I acknowledge that I was very uneasy, lest some accident should befall me during his Lordship’s absence from this place. It was a considerable time before I could compose myself to rest, and I suppose, I had slept but a very little time, when I was terrified with the most shocking dream imaginable. I fancied myself at our house

* house in London, and in the last month
 * of my pregnancy, when casually taking up a
 * a News-paper, I read an Advertisement of
 * a Masquerade, to be held in the following
 * Week. Naturally averse as I am to those
 * kind of diversions, and highly improper as
 * I conceived it for a Woman in my situation
 * to make one of such a Company, I won-
 * der at that Curiosity which impelled me
 * to ask my Lord to go to the Masquerade.
 * I was unable, however, to suppress the in-
 * clination I had to be present; and requested
 * his Lordship to indulge my folly. He re-
 * presented in the strongest terms, though with
 * the most tender complaisance, the impropriety
 * of my going, for the reasons abovementioned.
 * But I was deaf to his arguments, tho' I
 * saw the force of them; and at length he
 * consented to my going. Nothing now re-
 * mained but to chuse our dresses, and wait
 * for the happy night. It at length arrived;
 * and we were carried to the scene of mirth.
 * The Company was very numerous, and
 * the dresses in general, superb beyond my
 * conception. His Majesty * was present, and,
 * did me the Honour to take very particular

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* George I. This dream happened in 1725.

' notice of me. Late in the night, and just
 ' when his Lordship, anxious for my health,
 ' was persuading me to retire, I thought a
 ' masque entered the room, the most hideous
 ' I had ever beheld. The whole Company,
 ' indeed, seemed astonished and shocked, at
 ' the preposterous fancy that had adopted such
 ' a dress. It was half monkey, half goat.
 ' The head, fore paws, breast, and some part
 ' of the body, was of the monkey kind,
 ' while all the rest resembled a he-goat:
 ' What made this sight more shocking was,
 ' that the figure acted up to its character;
 ' the mischievous tricks of one animal, and
 ' the lascivious of the other, were most de-
 ' testably blended. This masque, however,
 ' was not suffered to remain. The Gentle-
 ' men present held a short conversation, and
 ' then united to kick it out of the room. I
 ' dreamt that it was immediately known that
 ' this character was assumed by a certain ba-
 ' ronet, who hearing I was to be there, and
 ' knowing my condition, had acted this
 ' scandalous part, to be revenged on me for
 ' having refused him my hand in marriage.
 ' I fainted at this news, and was conveyed
 ' home in a senseless condition. But now
 ' comes the horrid part of the dream. Me-
 ' thought

‘ thought I continued ill for ten days, at the
 ‘ end of which time I was delivered of an
 ‘ Animal exactly resembling that I had seen
 ‘ in my dream: and this occasioned the per-
 ‘ turbation of mind in which I awoke.’

Whether Lady *****’s dream was of the prophetic kind, or not, will be seen in the course of this History:—but there are not wanting thousands of living witnesses who declare that it was so; and that the Hero of this tale is, and has been from his infancy, as mischievous as a monkey, and as lecherous as a goat.

In six days after this circumstance Lord ***** returned to Huntingdonshire; and having been informed of what the reader is already acquainted with, used every argument that his good sense and tenderness could suggest, to convince her Ladyship that dreams were only the effects of a disturbed imagination, and that they fore-boded neither good nor evil. Her Ladyship seemed to be convinced by his arguments; soon recovered her accustomed calmness of mind, and at the expected

time was delivered of a fine boy, whose History is destined to fill the following pages.

Lady ***** was no sooner informed that her new-born Son was free from all blemish or imperfection, than her joy became as great as her anxiety had been before. At her own choice she suckled the boy:—but at the end of four months he became so ravenous in his demands, that his mother, who was rather weak at the time, was unable to supply him any longer: and as it was thought too early to wean him, a nurse was enquired for; and, at length, the young healthy wife of a labouring man in the neighbourhood, was fixed upon to superintend the young peer. With this good Woman he continued till he was near three years of age. What became of him afterwards, will appear in the following chapters.

C H A P. III.

The Pranks our Hero played in his early Youth. He is placed under the care of a Clergyman in Kent. Account of his behaviour while in that Gentleman's family. His tricks at length determine his Master to get rid of him ; and he returns to London.

AT the expiration of the third annual Visit which the noble parents of our Hero made to their Country Seat, after they had left him in the care of the labourer's wife, they thought it proper to take him under their own immediate inspection, that they might give him such an education, and offer him such occasional instructions as were suited to the rank in life which he was destined to fill. They therefore immediately brought him to London, where no care or expence was spared to cultivate his young mind, and inspire him with principles of Virtue and honour.

Nothing remarkable happened during the succeeding four years of his life : but that he appeared a froward, ill-tempered Child ; and though apparently possessed of superior talents,

talents, seemed prone to abuse them on every occasion. But he had no sooner entered the eighth year of his age, than the latent vices of his mind began to display themselves much more conspicuously. At this early period he used to amuse himself with drowning young cats and puppies, setting fire to the maids cloaths, putting cinders into the stew-pans, and a thousand other mischievous whimsies, that sufficiently denoted his disposition, and plainly shewed that he would do more harm as soon as he was able.

Many, tho' not all, of these circumstances came to the knowledge of his parents, and were the source of infinite affliction to them:—his mother in particular, would sometimes wish, in the bitterness of her heart, that he had never been born: but wishes were now ineffectual; and the great consideration was, how to alleviate the evil which could not be wholly remedied. With this view Lord ***** made enquiry among his acquaintance, for a proper person to undertake the superintendence of his Son; and was soon recommended to a Young Clergyman in Kent, who was lately married, and had but very moderate promotion in the Church. To this gentleman his Lordship wrote

wrote on the subject; and requested the favour of seeing him in town, if he did not think the care of the child beneath his notice. The Clergyman soon arrived in London; and after staying a few days, prepared to depart with his pupil. Lady ***** could not think of losing him without tears, though she wished him in any hands but her own. His Lordship, however, with manly firmness, delivered up his Son, with these remarkable words—‘I commit to
 ‘ your care, Sir, the most refractory boy in
 ‘ the Universe: —if you can make any thing of
 ‘ him, depend on my gratitude for a suitable
 ‘ return.’ The Clergyman promised to exert his best endeavours, and departed with his pupil.

Lord ***** had previously enjoined Mr. Harris (for that was the name of the Clergyman) to write him a monthly account of the behaviour of the boy; and from the letters written in consequence of this injunction we are enabled to continue our history with regularity, which otherwise would be abruptly broken in this place. It appears that our Hero behaved with tolerable decency for the first month; a circumstance that evinces the vice of hypocrisy to have taken place in his young mind: but though he might have

have been then tinctured with that vice, our readers may be assured that it makes no part of his present character, and that many years have now elapsed since he has had virtue sufficient even to attempt disguising the worst of his actions.

The second, and every future letter which Lord ***** received from Mr. Harris, for the space of a year and a half, brought him very disagreeable accounts of his Son, and tended to prove that he was, what his Lordship had denominated him, 'the most refractory boy in the Universe.' At the expiration of eighteen months Mr. Harris wrote his Lordship the following Letter.

My Lord,

Truly concerned as I am to be obliged by an adherence to truth, to send your Lordship nothing but ill-tidings of your Son, I have maturely deliberated on every circumstance that I could conceive might enable me to transmit you better news — and at length I flatter myself that I have fixed on a plan, which, if it meets with your Lordship's approbation, may afford at least a gleam of hope. Your Son is now far advanced in his tenth year; and if some method
be

be not speedily adopted to root out, in some measure, the vices of his mind, I shall despair of ever seeing him, what I most devoutly wish him to be, a good man, and an ornament to the noble family from which he has the honour to be descended. The plan, My Lord, which I have to propose is, to take as boarders five or six young gentlemen of the most reputable families, and, if possible, to select such young gentlemen, as have already given proofs of their virtuous dispositions. This, I should imagine, with your Lordship's assistance, might be no difficult matter to effect. By the example of these youths I am tempted to hope that your Son might be gradually weaned from that habit of vice which at present directs all his conduct. And I am the rather encouraged in this hope, because I should endeavour to animate my pupils to acts of virtue and honour, by bestowing occasional rewards on the most deserving, and affixing some badge of disgrace on those who might be found to merit it. Perhaps, by these means, shame might effect, what instruction and advice at present cannot do. Your Lordship will consider of this matter; and if my proposal meets with your approbation, you will assist, in the execution of it,

*Your Lordship's most obedient,
most devoted humble servant,*
F CHARLES HARRIS,

This plan was so flattering to Lord *****, hopes, and so perfectly coincident with his own way of thinking, that he lost no time in applying to several Gentlemen of his acquaintance, to whom he gave so advantageous an account of the learning, abilities, and character of Mr. Harris, that in three months time that gentleman found himself at the head of a little university of seven scholars, beside the Hero of this tale. The eldest of these lads was not more than twelve years of age, and the youngest near nine ; so that they were admirably calculated to be companions to each other.

Mr. Harris might have had more pupils ; but as he had no intention of keeping an Usher, he conceived the number sufficient for his own superintendence ; and as he was paid a genteel price with each, determined to take the utmost care of them. He only increased his family by the addition of two maid-servants, to one which he already kept ; and prepared to accommodate his Scholars in a manner suited to their rank.

Some months had passed, when our little Academy broke up for the Christmas Holidays, and the Young Gentlemen were sent, in two Coaches, to London, where our Hero had
never

never been, since he was first placed under the care of Mr. Harris. His Lordship having learnt, in his two last letters, rather more favourable accounts of him than formerly, received him with great marks of affection; while his mother overwhelmed him with tenderness.

As he was now of an age sufficient to relish the more rational pleasures, his parents, during this recess for the holidays, took him several times to the Theatres, when our best Tragedies and Comedies were represented; flattering themselves with the hope, that the great and Virtuous characters of the Stage would catch his attention, and inspire him with worthy and elevated sentiments: but they had the mortification to find their generous cares wholly fruitless, or rather productive of ill-consequences than otherwise. It was their custom, on the morning succeeding any theatrical representation, to ask him his opinion of the principal characters of the play:—they found that he had talents to distinguish, but that he always judged wrong; evermore preferring the trifling, the mischievous, or the infernally wicked characters, to the great, the good, the respectable. With him, *Syphax* was a character superior to *Cato*; and *Iago* and *Shylock* were two of his greatest favourites. The

Stage, therefore, was tried in vain, to operate on the mind of this wayward youth. The holidays wore away very tediously ; and his parents were happy when the expiration of the allotted month enabled them, with propriety, to return their son to his preceptor.

Let us now suppose our little Academy re-assembled, and every boy, but the hero of this tale, making such advances in virtue and learning, as were most flattering to the hopes of their parents, and seemed to forebode the happiest consequences in their future lives. We do not mean to tire the reader, by a tedious recital of every trifling incident of Young Twitcher's life ; and shall therefore relate only such circumstances as serve more effectually to mark his character.

A tale is related of him, which we are well assured is true, and which happened about the time that he had attained his thirteenth year. Mr. Harris, his preceptor, was remarkable for his regular discharge of the ecclesiastical duties ; and for his devout and graceful performance of them. This, of course, procured him a large auditory ; and it was frequently observed, that his church was more crowded than any other within many miles of the place. This circumstance gave uneasiness to our Hero, who,
among

among other vices, possessed that scandalous one, of envying the fame of another : — and it gave birth to a scheme the most extraordinary that perhaps ever entered into the head of a boy. He frequently offered to lay wagers with his School-fellows, that within one month he himself would perform service in the church, and be attended by as respectable an audience as Mr. Harris himself. None of the lads, however, would wager with him ; but some of them laughed at his folly, while others wondered at the extravagance of his notions. This, however, did not deter him from carrying his scheme into execution.

About a mile from the Village where Mr. Harris lived, was a large market-town from whence our Hero proposed to procure the singular company that was to form his audience ; and at about three hundred yards from Mr. Harris's house was an empty barn, in which he intended to lodge them, till the time of exhibition. He did not want money to discharge the expences of his frolic ; and it was executed in the following manner.

On a holiday-afternoon he went out into the Village, and assembled all the poor boys he could find, whom he took with him to the barn, and promised

promised Sixpence for every cat, and a shilling for each dog, which should be brought, after the dusk of the evening, to that barn, for four nights successively. This was such encouragement for the boys to exert themselves, that presently all the smaller dogs, and most of the cats in the village, as well as great numbers from the adjacent town, were conveyed to the barn, where our Hero met his servants in the dark, and discharged his obligation to them. The number, however, which had been collected in three days was such, that he forbade their seeking for any more. It may seem extraordinary that this affair was not discovered—but the barn was totally unoccupied, and so hid by trees, that any person could enter it unperceived; and two of the boys being appointed to tie up the animals separately, and to furnish them with victuals and water, there was no danger of a discovery, either from their quarrelling, or from the effects of hunger.

The Clerk of the parish kept a little public house within a quarter of a mile of the Church; and to this house our young Lord, with two of his village-servants, went in the afternoon; where he called for liquor, and insisted on the Landlord's drinking with them. The dose was repeated so often, that the old Clerk fell fast asleep; and the rest of the family being absent from

from the drinking-room, our Hero put the Keys of the Church in his pocket, paid his reckoning, and departed. It was now time to repair home; which he did, after directing his Companions to summon their fellows, and meet him at the barn at midnight.

When Mr. Harris and all his family were retired to rest, young Twitcher arose from his bed, slipped down stairs with his shoes in his hand, and taking a candle and lanthorn, and a tinder-box, stole out of the house, and hastened to the barn; where he found some of his comrades, and most of the rest soon appeared; but others had not been able to get out. Their business now was to remove the dogs and cats to the Church; which they did with as much secrecy as expedition; and the distance being very small, they had removed them all in the space of an hour, and tied them in all the best pews near the pulpit. They now lighted up candles, which had been previously provided; and one of the company rang the little bell, as for the Clergyman. Our Hero, with a fine shirt over his Cloaths, as a surplice, immediately entered the Church, and the ringing of the bell ceased, lest the village should be alarmed before the ceremony was begun. Young Twitcher despised
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the fear of detection; he determined that the neighbourhood should bear witness of his impudence and folly; all he feared was, lest he should be detected too soon.

Several of the inhabitants were at this time awake—they instantly got up and alarmed their neighbours—they approached towards the Church; they plainly saw the lights:—but none of them had courage to enter. Among the rest Mr. Harris's family was disturbed; and they all instantly repaired to the place, to contemplate this very extraordinary scene. By the time the Minister arrived at the Church-yard, half the village had assembled—but not a soul durst venture within several paces of the Church-door. Mr. Harris himself, though not a superstitious man, was alarmed at appearances:—he hesitated for a moment—but considering it as his duty to set an example of courage to his parishioners, he stepped forward within the door of the Church; tho', he has since confessed, not without a strange palpitation of heart. The honest Country-folk followed him, one by one, as they could muster courage to approach. By this time our Hero had nearly concluded the service—he went on, however, with an unembarrassed countenance, till Mr. Harris, enraged

at his wickedness and folly; recovered his surprize, and hastily rushing forward, pulled him from the reading-desk. The parents of his apostate companions were most of them present—the boys were instantly seized, and confined in the Vestry-room, till a consultation was held how to punish them in the most exemplary manner. The Dogs and cats were let loose, and made their escape as they could: but in the hurry, young Twitcher gave his master the slip, ran home to bed, and, in the morning, with a face of the most consummate impudence, solemnly declared that he knew nothing of the transaction; that he had never been out of his preceptor's house; and that the whole must have been a *deceptio Visus*, a contrivance of the Devil, or some evil spirit, to impose on and terrify Mr. Harris and his parishioners.

The Wickedness of this assertion shocked the whole neighbourhood, (for every one was made acquainted with it) even more, if possible, than the proceedings of the past night. But as no person but Mr. Harris had any authority over our Hero, and as he was the son of a Peer, he escaped that punishment he so well deserved.

At noon on the day following, the honest Villagers assembled at Mr. Harris's house, where it

was determined that the culprits should be discharged from their confinement in the Vestry-room, and that their respective parents should punish them as they thought proper. They were accordingly discharged; and most of them underwent a chastisement, sufficient to make them remember the adventure of the dogs and cats to the latest moment of their lives.

By this time Mr. Harris was heartily tired of the Company of his pupil, and determined, at all adventures, to get rid of so apostate a wretch; dreading, if these were the tricks of his early youth, the fatal consequences of his vices, when a few more years should have matured him in iniquity. He therefore took the advantage of the first post, to write a faithful narrative of the whole transaction to Lord *****, and to declare, in the strongest terms, that he would no longer superintend his Son's Education.

His Lordship, though greatly concerned to think that Mr. Harris had thus determined with regard to his Son, could by no means blame him for having taken such a resolution. He therefore wrote him a polite answer to his Letter; in which he thanked him for the care he had so long taken of the abandoned boy; and promised to send for him

him in a few days. In pursuance of this promise, his Lordship, in the following Week, sent two servants to fetch young Twitcher to town; and by the same conveyance remitted to Mr. Harris, a sum amply sufficient to repay him for the trouble he had experienced with the wayward youth. The servants discharged their trust with fidelity; and we now find our Hero at the house of his parents in London. What became of him afterwards will be learnt in the following Chapters.

H A P.

Young Twitcher's reception in Town. His infamous behaviour. His Journey to Bath, and its consequences.

PREVIOUS to the arrival of our Hero, Lord ***** had intreated his Lady to join with him in receiving the young villain in such a manner as might convince him how much they detested his late behaviour: and it was mutually agreed between the parents to shock him, if possible, into a sense of his follies. On his arrival, therefore, he was ordered to remain in an outer apartment, till they thought proper to admit him to their presence: and he was kept near two hours before they would see him. At

length, however, he was directed to walk in ; and both his parents received him with a profound silence, assuming looks of ineffable contempt. This behaviour, from the fondest of parents, would have shocked any lad less hardened than our Hero. But he seemed to disregard their behaviour, and throwing himself into a chair, took up a book which lay in the window, and behaved with the most stoical indifference.

His Lordship was now incensed beyond the possibility of bearing it : and hastily advancing to his son, gave him a box on the ear which brought him to the ground. The Youth got up again without seeming to take any other notice of what had happened than by a malicious grin ; and it is probable, though his Lordship had never struck him till that moment, that he would have repeated his blows, — but the mother's feelings were alarmed ; she instantly interposed ; and her tender sollicitations prevented any farther consequences. His Lordship ordered him to depart the room ; and he seemed to obey with pleasure : — but when he had gained the door, he darted a look of inexpressible malice at his father, and immediately hastened away.

At this time he had between four and five pounds

pounds in his pocket, with which he left the house, determined not to return till necessity should compel him back. About two o'clock in the morning after his departure, a person going through the street, discovered a fire in his Lordship's stables, and directly alarmed the family. By this time the dwelling-house was in danger; but by the immediate assistance of engines the fire was got under, without any farther damage than the destruction of a part of the stables, the consumption of a quantity of hay and corn, and the loss of two fine Coach-horses, which perished in the flames.

Though it was never certainly known how this misfortune happened; yet there was every reason to imagine that young Twitcher was the author of it. For besides the known baseness of his disposition, and the recent affront he apprehended he had received from his father; it afterwards appeared that a youth of his size and appearance, and dressed exactly in the manner he was when he left the house, had purchased a lanthorn at one shop in the neighbourhood, and candles at another shop, that very evening: and it was likewise discovered that such a youth was seen walking backwards and forwards before his Lordship's house, between one and two o'clock in the morning. We therefore apprehend, that we
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may safely place the honour of this transaction to our Hero's account, without any danger of deviating from the strictness of historical truth.

From this time young Twitcher was not heard of for six days, when one afternoon he boldly knocked at the door of his father's house, and entered with all the unconcern imaginable. His Lordship was immediately apprized of his arrival, and ordered him into his closet, where he challenged him with having set fire to the stables; which our Hero positively denying, and even expressing some concern for the accident, his Lordship pretended to believe him, and proceeded to enquire how he had disposed of himself since he left the house.

From our Hero's account it appeared that he had taken the road to Bath, with an intention of paying a visit to that City; but that living very extravagantly upon the road, he found that his finances would not hold out for such a tour; he therefore went no farther than Marlborough, where he staid one day, and returned on foot to London; having spent his last shilling for a pint of Wine at Knightsbridge.

Notwithstanding all his past crimes and follies,
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the tenderness of the father prevailed, and he flattered himself with the hope that the period might yet arrive, in which his son, seeing the error of his former conduct, might so reform his life, as to be no dishonour to his family.

Pleasing himself with these agreeable hopes, he pronounced a full pardon for all that was past, and introduced him to his mother. Her Ladyship could not help testifying her joy at his return, and bathed his face with her tears, while her heart was too big to utter a single word. Our Hero now acted an unusual part; and promised his parents a total reformation of his conduct. This was so much beyond their expectations, that they were overcome with joy; and both his parents, in the fullness of their hearts, presented him with money; to a greater amount indeed than ought ever to be trusted in the possession even of the most prudent lad of his age.

This was the happiest evening Lord and Lady ***** had known for several years; and they retired to rest full of the most pleasing hopes. On the following day his Lordship sent cards of invitation to his nearest relations among the nobility and gentry; begging they would excuse the shortness of the notice, and favour him
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with their company to dinner that very day. The Summons was chearfully obeyed, and they sat down to table, one of the happiest Companies in the Universe. Our Hero was present, and acted his part with so finished a dissimulation, that he was equally carested by all parties, and every one strove to shew him the most singular marks of esteem. He was loaded with presents from all quarters; and at once became ten times richer than ever he had been in his life. This was the consequence that he expected from his Hypocrisy: and his end being obtained, he determined to act without controul. He, however, kept up the farce for the whole Evening; and retired to rest when the visitors left the house.

Our hero arose early in the morning, and telling the servants he should take a turn in the park till breakfast-time, went out of the house wholly unsuspected. The presents he had received amounted to upwards of one hundred and forty pounds; and he was determined to indulge himself, without restraint, while a shilling of the money remained.

Instead, therefore, of going to the park, as he had pretended, he immediately repaired toward St. Giles's, where he soon picked up a ragged boy

boy about his own age, whom he asked if he would enter into his service. The boy gladly answered him in the affirmative; upon which young Twitcher took him to Monmouth-street, where he equipped him with a livery suit, and furnished him with a change of linen, and other necessaries for a journey. Having proceeded thus far, they repaired to Smithfield, where our Hero purchased Horses, saddles and Bridles; and they immediately took the road towards Bath.

Having reached the end of their journey in three days, without meeting with any adventure on the road, our Hero took up his lodgings at an Inn, to the landlord of which he sold his horses, for less than half the money they had cost him; and then sought for private Lodgings. He was soon accommodated, at a house more celebrated for the gaiety of its inhabitants, than for the reputation they maintained in life. Young Twitcher and his servant were lodged on the second floor; the first being occupied by a very gay young Lady, and her companion, who passed as her servant.

Miss Willis, (for that was the name she chose to go by) was at this time about seventeen years

of age:—but she had made such early and frequent sacrifices at the shrine of Venus, that she was a perfect adept in the art of Love; and, though so young in years, might be considered as old, and hacknied in the ways of iniquity.

The Genius of Miss Willis soon discovered that our Hero might be made serviceable to her; and the almost exhausted state of her finances, gave her the hint to profit by the use of some of that money which she learnt that our Hero squandered with an unsparing hand. Unwilling to lose a moment in the execution of the scheme she had formed, she prevailed on the Mistress of the house to invite Young Twitcher and herself to a dinner, of which she (Miss Willis) would defray the expence. Our Landlady was one of those Ladies of easy Virtue, who do not hesitate to comply with any request, whereby their own interest may be in any degree advanced: and Miss Willis was at this time considerably in arrear for rent, and other accommodations. The Matron, therefore, who guessed the game that was to be played, fixed on the following day, and immediately invited our Hero to dine with her, under pretence of its being the Anniversary of her birth; on which day, she told him, it had always been her custom to solicit the favour of the company of
such

such ladies and gentlemen as did her the honour to take up their residence at her house.

Young Twitcher readily accepted the invitation ; and waited on the old Lady the following day, some little time before the hour of dinner. He had not been many minutes in the room before Miss Willis made her appearance, dressed in a style of elegance proper for a birth-day drawing-room. She was really a fine figure ; and, on this occasion, had superadded all the assistance of art to the graces and charms which nature had bestowed on her.

Our Hero now, for the first time, felt the all-prevailing power of Love ; and was, for once in his life, totally embarrassed. This failing we hope our readers will excuse, as he has never given way to it from that period to the present moment. The first compliments were performed with great propriety on the part of Miss Willis, and with a very ill grace on that of our Hero. Dinner being brought in, he was in a great degree relieved from his anxiety, and he endeavoured to resume his accustomed ease :—but in vain ; for the cloth was no sooner removed, than he was wholly lost ; entranced beyond

measure with the sight of the fair object before him.

Miss Willis beheld her conquest with transport; and giving the old Lady a look of significance, that prudent matron made an apology for leaving their company for a few minutes. Miss Willis being resolved not to lose any of that time which appeared so precious, immediately laid her hand on that of our Hero, demanding why he was so serious at a time when they were assembled for the purposes of festivity. ‘Alas Madam!’ exclaimed he, ‘I feel a strange, and a new disorder, of which I fear you are the occasion.’ — ‘If I have undesignedly given you any uneasiness, Sir,’ returned Miss Willis, ‘I am heartily sorry for it, and shall gladly compensate the misfortune, by contributing all in my power to your restoration.’ This hasty behaviour on the part of a Lady, would not have passed upon a person of the least experience: — but Miss Willis found she had to manage a perfect novice, and acted accordingly.

Our Hero now began to recover himself by degrees; and having made many awkward attempts to express the vehemence of his new-born passion, the lady at length pretended to understand

stand him; — owned a reciprocal flame; and he thought himself the happiest youth in the Universe, when he was permitted to kneel and kiss her hand.

The Lady of the house now returning into the room, our Lovers observed a cautious distance of behaviour; and the bottle was circulated to the health of the foundress of the feast. After four or five chearful glasses, Miss Willis, who pretended never to have drank so much at one sitting in her life, retired to her apartment; promising to return at tea-time. In the interim our Hero took a walk into the fields; but was so much engrossed by the fair divinity who had taken possession of his heart, that he scarce knew whither he wandered, or beheld a single object that passed him. He did not, however, forget to return at tea-time, when he found Miss Willis, in a very elegant undress, that he thought added new charms to the most lovely Woman he had ever seen: and as he conceived that this change in her dress was owing to her desire of pleasing him, he was ten times more in love than before.

After the exchange of a few compliments; and after some faint resistance on the part of Miss Willis,

Willis, he was admitted to the supreme honour of kissing her lips. This was enough to have ruined him ; if he had not been already too deeply smitten to fly from her enchantments.

The good-natured Landlady now entered, and made tea for her guests ; after which cards were introduced ; and during the play, many fond glances, and squeezes of the hand (seemingly unregarded by the old Lady) passed between our Lovers. A genteel supper concluded the entertainment of the day ; and all parties retired, perfectly well satisfied, after Miss Willis had engaged the old Lady and our Hero to dine in her apartment, on the Sunday following.

It was three days to Sunday ; and Young Twitcher counted and accused the lingering moments as they passed. He did not dare, however, to visit Miss Willis till the day arrived, for fear of breaking in upon that rigid-rule of decorum, which she had previously enjoined him to observe, lest the lady of the house should remark on their conduct, and discover their sentiments for each other.

At length he beheld the happy dawn of the day which was to restore him to the sight of all
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he held dear in life. He had provided new cloaths on the occasion ; — the whole morning was employed in decorating his person ; and, to do him justice, when he entered the dining-room, he appeared a fine Young fellow. He was tall of his age, and had a comely and manly look. The first Compliments being past, our Hero begged that this might be the last formal visit, and that, for the future, they might converse together on the footing of lovers ; first acquainting Mrs Cropley (the lady of the house) with their mutual passion.

Miss Willis waited for a request of this kind ; and as Mrs. Cropley entered the room just at this moment, she desired our Hero to make her acquainted with the affair, while she retired to give orders for dinner. Of this trust he acquitted himself in a tolerably spirited manner ; and when Miss Willis returned into the room, covered with artificial blushes, which she had called forth on the occasion, Mrs Cropley mutually complimented the happy pair on their esteem for each other ; and expressed her satisfaction that her house contained the two most accomplished lovers in the universe.

They now sat down to dinner, and behaved
with

with the utmost freedom and familiarity; (keeping up just the appearance of modesty) for as Mrs Cropley was informed of their sentiments, there was no farther need of scruple. As Miss Willis was determined to lose no time, fearing that loss of money might be the consequence, the ladies had previously agreed that Mrs. Cropley should have a prior engagement to tea and supper. Soon after dinner, therefore, the old Woman, apologizing for her abrupt departure, declared that she left such agreeable company with great regret; but that before she had the honour of Miss Willis's invitation, she had engaged herself to drink tea and spend the evening with a Lady, in a distant part of the City. Miss Willis expressed great uneasiness at her going; but at length acquiesced, as Mrs Cropley could not stay without an evident breach of good manners.

As the reader knows Miss Willis's views, and is sufficiently acquainted with our Hero's passion for that lady, it is needless to say that, now they could indulge themselves without restraint, this visit was productive of an intimacy, which soon brought the intended plan to perfection. The minutes, winged with an ardent passion on the one hand, and a well-feigned one on the other, flew swiftly away; and it was near midnight before the

the Lovers had ceased to vow eternal affection for each other. At length Young Twitcher took his leave of the Charmer; having first obtained her permission to visit her every day, and at any hour, without ceremony.

The impatience of Young Twitcher to enjoy the company of Miss Willis was so great, that he could scarcely prevail upon himself to wait her hour of rising, before he again attended her. They were no sooner seated than she informed him that she had just received a note from a Gentleman who was nearly related to her, acquainting her that he was that minute arrived from London, and would immediately wait on her, with news of the greatest importance, which it materially concerned her to know. She therefore desired our Hero would shorten his visit, as it would be highly improper for her relation to find them together: but she begged at the same time the favour of seeing him in the afternoon, when she would not fail to communicate whatever news she might receive; professing to have no secrets, which she wished should remain such from him.

Young Twitcher bowed and retired: and when he waited on her in the afternoon, found

her reclining on her bed; her maid and Mrs. Cropsey supporting her; the one bathing her temples with water, while the other applied a bottle of salts to her nose. She appeared as if just recovered from a fit; and lifting up her languid eyes, she pathetically exclaimed; ‘Alas my dear Twissher! it is now impossible that our fates should be ever united!—the cruel destinies have rendered me an object unworthy your notice!’

Our Hero, in perfect astonishment, knelt at her feet, and vowed everlasting love and fidelity. She appeared to be soothed by his kind consolations; seemed to recover by degrees, and at length sitting upon the side of the bed, desired her female attendants to retire, that she might be at liberty to divulge the important secret that had destroyed her repose.

As soon as our lovers were alone, and Young Twissher had prevailed on his chamber to drink a glass of wine, by way of recruiting her wasted spirits, she addressed him as follows.—‘You have never yet enquired, my dear Sir, who or what the happy girl was, whom you have honoured with your love. Happy did I call myself! yes, thrice happy till this fatal day; but now

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the most miserable of my sex! — I am Sir the
 only child of a very eminent West-India Mer-
 chant of London. My mother died about
 three years ago; in a few months after which
 my father married a Woman of less than half
 his own age, by whose advice all his actions
 were directed. She is a Woman of the most
 impetuous passions, and the most unbounded
 prodigality. I soon began to find how dis-
 agreeable it was to live with such a mother-in-
 law; and my father observed my uneasiness
 with concern. Though he was entirely go-
 verned by his wife, he had not lost his affec-
 tion for his daughter. I, therefore, one day
 took the advantage of her absence; threw my-
 self at my father's feet, and requested that he
 would make me a decent allowance for my sup-
 port, and permit me to live at Bath, where I
 had several very genteel acquaintance. The
 old gentleman took two days to consider of my
 proposal, during which time, I suppose, he in-
 formed his wife of my request. Be this as it
 will; at the end of the time fixed my father
 sent me word that he would wait on me in my
 dressing-room. I attended his pleasure, anxious
 for the gratification of my wishes; when he in-
 formed me that he had considered of my pro-
 posal, and had determined to comply with it,

' by an allowance of two hundred pounds per
 ' Annum; and that he would pay me half a
 ' year's salary in advance. I expressed my gra-
 ' titude for his generosity; and made immediate
 ' preparations for leaving London. I believe my
 ' mother-in-law was heartily glad to have me re-
 ' moved to such a distance from her; though she
 ' pretended sorrow at my departure. My fa-
 ' ther's concern at losing me was great and sin-
 ' cere; he wept about my neck; and it was not
 ' till a considerable time, that I could tear myself
 ' from his embraces. I instantly set out for Bath;
 ' took up my residence in this house; and have
 ' lived very agreeably here till the present time;
 ' and as my salary has been always remitted
 ' quarterly, have been able to make a genteel ap-
 ' pearance. My Expectations on the death of
 ' my father were very considerable: for though
 ' I did not doubt but he would make a handsome
 ' provision for his wife; yet I thought my for-
 ' tune could not be less than thirty thousand
 ' pounds. But alas! Sir, all my hopes are
 ' blasted at once. My Kinsman, who waited on
 ' me this morning, informs me, that by the loss
 ' of three Ships, in which my father was deeply
 ' concerned, he is at once become a beggar. A
 ' Commission of Bankrupt against the good old
 ' Gentleman

' Gentleman was issued but a few days ago : and
 ' thus am I, from a state of ease, affluence, and
 ' great expectations, reduced at once to beg-
 ' gary : — Yet, believe me, Sir, my father's
 ' misfortunes affect me still more than my own.'

This well-feigned tale, told with all the art
 that a Woman of Intrigue may be supposed Mis-
 tress of, had the desired effect on the enamoured
 heart of our Hero ; who though he would not
 have given a shilling to save the whole world
 from beggary, would, had he been able, have
 cheerfully poured the treasures of Peru at the
 feet of his Mistress. It is not to be wondered,
 therefore, that he swallowed the bait ; and in-
 stantly made Miss Willis an offer of any money
 she might want, to answer her present exigencies.
 He now, for the first time, told her who he was ;
 informed her what money he had in his posses-
 sion ; and begged she would share with him the
 Contents of his purse. ' Alas ! Sir, (cried she,)
 ' I have no immediate occasion to profit by your
 ' generous offer ; which, however, affords me
 ' infinite satisfaction, as it is the most solid proof
 ' of your Esteem. It is true I am somewhat in
 ' arrear with Mrs. Cropley ; but I dare say she
 ' will credit me till I hear farther respecting my
 ' father's

‘ father’s affairs ; and I hope I shall not fail of an
 ‘ expedient to discharge my obligations to her.’

Our Hero now enquired the amount of the sum in which she stood indebted ; and having learnt that it was about forty pounds, he begged her pardon for a moment, ran up stairs for the money, and threw it into her lap. Miss Willis easily guessed his business when he left her ; and employed the short time of his absence in summoning her tears, which, on his delivering the money, she plentifully shed, (without speaking a single word,) as the tribute of her gratitude. Our Lovers having spent the remainder of the day in a reciprocation of tenderness, parted near midnight, with renewed assurances of everlasting attachment. Our Hero promised to see her early in the morning ; and the Lady determined to make use of that meeting, to rivet the fetters that he wore.

Young Twitcher was at the door of Miss Willis’s apartments soon after her waiting-maid was arisen in the morning. The girl informed him that her lady was not yet risen :—but he begged to see her ; and begged with such an earnestness, that the maid (who had her previous instructions) ventured to admit him to the bedchamber. Miss Willis,

Willis, starting up in her bed, seemed surprized at his entrance; and blamed the maid for her want of decorum — Twitcher pleaded for the girl: — she was easily forgiven and dismissed; — for nothing could be denied to the importunities of the Lover and the benefactor. The Lady sat up in her bed, and artfully displayed one of the finest bosoms that the hand of nature ever formed. Our Hero was enchanted: he felt passions till then unknown — He had recollection, however, to call up the art of dissimulation to his aid: — he pretended to have rested very ill in the night; and begged permission to repose on the bed of his charmer: — he did so — their embraces became more and more fervent — one familiarity brought on another — till at length (for I must close the Scene) our Hero paid the first sacrifice at the altar of Love.

From this time the intercourse between our Lovers became more frequent. They eat, drank and slept together; till, in the course of four days, Young Twitcher had given the Lady every shilling of his money — He then saw her no more — she privately decamped while he was gone to take an afternoon's walk; and, on his return, he was astonished to find she had left word that she was gone to London.

The

The baseness of his own heart instantly led him to suspect a fraud; and as he had no money left, was determined to act *En Cavalier*. He therefore directed his servant-boy to pack up their few moveables, and retire to an Inn in the neighbourhood, while he entertained Mrs. Cropley in the dining-room. These orders were no sooner given than obeyed; and the lad got out of the house unsuspected. Our Hero, in the mean time, ordered Mrs Cropley to make out his bill; telling her that he had entrusted all his money with Miss Willis, who, he was afraid, had gone off with it: but that he had a valuable watch, which he would go immediately and dispose of; and return to defray the expences of his lodging.

Accustomed as the old Woman was to the arts of deception, she did not suspect any fraud in so young an Adventurer; and therefore sat down very gravely to make out his bill; while our Hero went to sell the watch. It is true he did sell it; but not for the purpose of paying Mrs. Cropley. He immediately repaired to the Inn where his servant waited; hired post-horses, taking a man with them to bring the horses back; and set forwards towards London.

When

When they came to the end of the first stage, they stopt, by Young Twitcher's order, at the first Inn, at that end of the town nearest to Bath; where he declared his intention of staying for the night. Having ordered supper, he gave directions to his man to go to the other extremity of the town, and order horses to go post towards London: and taking a turn, as if to see the place, he soon joined his lad, and they made the utmost expedition, leaving their attendant from Bath to get paid for the horse-hire as he could. This method our Hopeful Adventurer practised through all the future stages; and at length arrived in Town, after having bilked the whole road: for as it was impossible to suspect the trick, no one thought of pursuing him. They were now in Piccadilly; and to make the imposture compleat, it was necessary that the last stage should not fare any better than the rest. He therefore directed his servant to take care of their little baggage; which being secured, he bid the fellow who had attended them with horses from Hounslow, go into an Inn, and order a bottle of Wine; but no sooner had the man entered the house, than Twitcher gave the wink to his valet, and they disappeared in an Instant.

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When

When they had got to what they thought a safe distance from the pursuit of the post-boy, they made a halt, and entered a public-house, to debate at leisure on their farther proceedings. It may now be thought, that our Hero had, for the present at least, ran his full career of roguery : but he was not of a disposition to leave unfinished any piece of villainy he undertook. Having drank a refreshing draught, he sent his servant of a frivolous errand, and took the opportunity of his absence to leave the public-house : thus defrauding the poor boy of the trifling wages due to him ; and his little linen, which was packed up with his Master's. He stopped at the first old-cloaths-shop he came to, and taking one shirt by way of change, turned all the rest of the baggage into ready money.

He now went to the Water-side, took a boat, and bid the Waterman row where he pleased. The fellow went leisurely with the tide towards Chelsea, while our hero ruminated on the manner in which he should dispose of himself till his money was spent ; for he had previously determined not to return home while he had any cash left. The Waterman stopping at Chelsea, young Twitcher went into the nearest public house,

house, where he called for liquor, and other refreshments, for himself and the man; but as tricks of roguery were ever uppermost in his head, he had no sooner eaten and drank, than he quitted the house by a back door, and passing through several gardens, soon gained a road which led to Kensington. Here he staid for the night; and in the evening of the following day proceeded to London, where he determined to squander the remainder of his money.

Repairing to Covent-Garden, he went into a Bagnio, where he ordered an elegant supper, drank plentifully of the richest wines, and then retired to rest. When he awoke in the morning he found himself greatly indisposed, without being able to guess at the cause of his illness. On the waiter's attending him, he told the fellow of his indisposition; and enquiry being made into the nature of his complaint, there arose a suspicion that he had been injured by some female connection. To cut short this indelicate part of our History, we will only observe that a Surgeon was sent for, who finding that our Hero was a proper subject of his care, undertook his cure: but the obligation he had received of Miss Willis was so great, that three weeks had passed before

there was any sign of his recovery ; and by that time the Bagnio bills had exhausted all his money.

He was now unable to leave his bed ; and yet he could not have found credit in that house : he was therefore under a necessity of informing the surgeon who he was ; and that gentleman having waited on Lord *****, received his Lordship's orders to compleat the cure ; to discharge the expence of his living at the Bagnio, and then to deliver a bill of the whole : — but the Surgeon was enjoined not to let the Keepers of the Bagnio know the name or rank of his patient.

C H A P. V.

Young Twitcher returns to his Father. He is placed at a boarding-School near London. Debauches his preceptor's Servant-maid. His removal from the Academy, to the house of his father in London.

AT the end of Six Weeks the health of our Hero being established, the Surgeon defrayed the expence of his lodging and diet, and calling a coach, drove directly to the house of
Lord

Lord *****, who paid a generous price for the cure, and once more received his apostate Son under his protection.

His Lordship now determined to debar young Twitcher the use of money, with a view to try what effect that would have on him. At the end of two months he found the consequence; which was simply that of preventing his making another elopement: — but it wrought no change in his disposition: — the inveterate baseness of his temper was conspicuous on all occasions; and as he could not riot in extravagance abroad, he indulged himself in every act of petty mischief and malice at home; diverting himself with writing lampoons on his father and mother, or making perpetual quarrels between the servants.

His noble parents viewed his conduct with infinite concern, and determined once more to remove him from under their immediate care. This resolution being formed, his Lordship sent for him one morning into his closet, and after mildly recounting the numerous crimes he had already, tho' so young, been guilty of, he gave him many admirable directions for his future conduct; and this in a tone of so much humanity and paternal love, as would have melted any heart,

heart, and inspired virtuous resolutions in any breast less hardened than that of our Hero. In fine, his lordship expressed his resolution of sending him to a capital boarding school near London; and told him that his allowance for pocket-money should be proportioned to his rank in life; and he hoped a prudent use would be made of the effects of his bounty.

The thought of being again possessed of money gave our Hero great satisfaction, and he therefore expressed the utmost willingness to comply with his Lordship's intention of sending him to a public school. The necessary preparations being made, Young Twitcher set forwards, attended by two of his father's domestics; and they soon reached one of the best boarding-schools in this Kingdom, which is situated within twelve miles of the Metropolis. To the care of the master of the house, (whom we shall distinguish by the name of Jackson) was our Hero committed: and a letter from Lord ~~Arden~~ was delivered to Mr. Jackson, to inform him of some particulars respecting the youth who was placed under his tuition.

In this place our Hero remained a month, before he transacted any exploit worthy historical notice: but about the end of that period Mr. Jackson

Lord Arden

Jackfon hired a female fervant, whose charms engaged our Hero's attention, and produced the consequences which we fhall faithfully recite in the following pages.

Jenny Carter (for that was the girl's name) was one of thofe unparalleled beauties, on which the rich and bounteous hand of nature had lavifhed all her charms. It would be fuperfluous to attempt a description of her perfon — It was the effence of Elegance, modelled by the Graces. Jenny was about feventeen years old when fhe engaged herfelf at the boarding-fchool; a place of all others the moft improper for a girl of her years and beauty. She had not been a week in the houfe before feveral of the young gentlemen began to view her with a kind of paffion, which if it be not love, is very often called by that name. None of them, however, made any advances towards the object of their defires, dreading their mafter's difpleafure in cafe of a difcovery. It remained, therefore, for young Twitcher, who was as infenfible to the fear of his mafter as he was to the dictates of honour, to attempt, and finally to compleat the conqueft of this lovely young Woman.

For this purpofe he never had an opportunity
of

of seeing Jenny alone, but he paid the most flattering compliments to her beauty, at the same time hinting that her charms would hereafter entitle her to a coronet, if it was not her own fault. This kind of language, frequently repeated, began to operate on the vanity of her inexperienced heart : and as she had no suspicion that young Twitcher's views were dishonourable, she did not hesitate to give him hopes that her affections might be gained, by an assiduous preservance on his part.

Our Hero saw, or though he saw, with an infernal kind of rapture, the hour approaching when he should triumph over the virtue of this accomplished maid ; and took every method in his power to hasten the advancement of it. With this view he was continually buying ribbons and other trifles, which he presented to Jenny, as so many testimonials of the sincerity of his attachment. These little presents, through the grateful disposition of the girl, insensibly engaged her affections to such a degree, that at length she was perfectly in love with the giver : tho' she had virtue and spirit enough to have checked, if not wholly subdued her growing passion, had she conceived that Young Twitcher harboured an ungenerous thought respecting her.

While

While matters were in this situation, a circumstance happened that tended to hasten the catastrophe that our hero was meditating. It was now the middle of summer, and the weather was uncommonly pleasant. A holiday was to happen in the following week, and on that very day a grand cricket-match was to be played, at the distance of three miles from the school, by the gentlemen of two contending counties. On this occasion the boarders universally joined in a request to Mr. Jackson, that the holiday might be spent in a jaunt to see the cricket-match. This request was readily complied with : which encouraged the servants to prefer a petition of the same nature ; and they were gratified, with a reflection only with respect to Jenny, who, as the youngest servant, was to stay at home to look after the house.

Now it was that our Hero determined on his plan of operations : and that his scheme might not fail, had recourse to the most infernal villainy. He had been a great reader of novels and romances ; and among other baneful knowledge he had by that means acquired, had read of heroes, who to accomplish the ruin of such Women as would not yield to the gratification

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of

of their lawless desires, had given them somniferous draughts, and then taken the basest advantages.

Resolved not to be outdone in any thing that was wicked ; and supposing he should not be able to conquer Jenny's virtue at once ; he therefore requested the use of Mr. Jackson's horse, to take a ride. This was not denied to the son of a nobleman. He accordingly rid to the nearest town, provided himself with a vial of drugs ; and having purchased likewise a bottle of wine, returned home. The Wine he gave to Jenny, desiring her to lock it up till he should have occasion for it : and the vial he kept in his own possession.

When the holiday morning arrived, the young gentlemen were up early, and all of them dressed for the diversion of the day, except our Hero : — and when enquiry was made after him, Mr. Jackson was told that he was indisposed with a cold, and begged to be excused from attending his schoolfellows. This request seemed too reasonable not to be complied with : and the Master having given orders to Jenny to take care of the young gentleman, set forward with all the rest of the family, to enjoy the diversion of the day.

Before

Before they had been an hour from the house, young Twitcher left his bed, and coming down stairs, told Jenny that his illness was merely a pretence to excuse his attendance on Mr. Jackson, that he might enjoy the very superior pleasure of spending the day in her company. This declaration, from a youth of his rank to a girl in her station, was extremely flattering: and poor Jenny began to think that the day would arrive when she should rank with the first ladies in the kingdom. But alas! the deluded girl saw not the snare which was laid for her!

Twitcher began now to indulge himself in greater liberties than he had hitherto taken with her: and, as far as she might, consistent with modesty, the unsuspecting Jenny returned his caresses. Our Hero made her the most lavish and unbounded promises of eternal love, and unalterable affection: while she gave him full credit for all he said. They now strolled together into the garden, at the end of which was a delightful arbor, so shaded by the trees which twined around it, as almost to exclude the rays of the mid-day sun. In this retreat our lovers sat down, to converse at leisure on the subject of their passion. Some liberties were now taken by our

hero, which were sufficient to awaken the caution of the maiden ; but not indelicate enough to make her think that she was in the hands of one who intended compleatly to debauch her. She however checked him for his freedom ; but was soon soothed by the artful villain, who attributed his conduct to the excess of his passion ; and begged her forgiveness with such a seeming sincerity, as easily procured his pardon.

They now retired to the house to dinner, and made a chearful, tho' a hasty meal ; for our Hero tempted her again into the garden, taking the bottle of wine as a refreshment, with which, he said, they would indulge themselves during the afternoon. He was not yet without hope that the wine might so far operate on the girl, as to make her propitious to his wishes ; but he took care also to be provided with his vial of drugs, determined, at all events, to gratify his passion.

Let us now view them again seated in the arbor, and our hero, with all the rhetoric he was master of, making ten thousand protestations of love to the enamoured girl, who listened to him with an attention that well expressed the satisfaction she felt at his agreeable flattery. They drank a glass or two of wine to the success of their
mutual

mutual passion, while young Twitcher called her his lady, and half turned her brain with the enchanting idea of her future grandeur. He still pressed her to drink more wine; and she knew not how to refuse him. He still plied her, baulking his own glass, till the effect of the wine, co-operating with the heat of the weather, threw her more than half-asleep in his arms. Now it was that young Twitcher began to take greater liberties than he had yet done: but Jenny was not quite asleep, as he had imagined. She instantly started from her drowsy fit, and upbraided him, in the severest terms, for his baseness.

In vain did the young villain kneel, protest, and swear to the innocence of his intentions: the maid was, for a long time, inexorable. At length he confessed that he had acted improperly; but ascribed his conduct to the vehemence of his affection. He even shed tears of well-feigned repentance; which operated so far on Jenny's love and her good temper, that she readily promised to pardon him, on condition that he would never offend again in the same manner.

He had now but one stroke to play off, finally to accomplish, or fail in his desires. He pressed her, with the utmost earnestness to drink
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one glass of wine, and one only, as a token of her forgiveness and reconciliation. This she at length agreed to; and into this glass young Twitcher found means, while he diverted her attention to other objects, to convey so large a portion of the somniferous drug, that she had no sooner drank it than she complained of unusual drowsiness, and sitting down on the ground, was soon lost in the most profound sleep. Now it was that, taking advantage of her helpless situation, the young villain perpetrated a crime, which alone ought to mark his name with infamy to future ages.

The unfortunate Jenny, thus sacrificed to the intemperance of lust, was left fast asleep by our Hero, who repairing immediately to the cricket-match, told his Preceptor and his companions, that finding himself better, he left the Academy soon after their departure, and should have arrived nearly as soon as they, but that he had unfortunately missed his way, and strolled several miles about the country before he could regain it.

This excuse passed extremely well on Mr. Jackson and the young gentlemen, who joined in congratulating our hero on his being recovered from his indisposition.

When

When the sports of the day were ended the whole company retired home ; but were surprised at not finding a ready admittance into the house. In vain did they knock at the door ; in vain did they call aloud for the maid — no Jenny could be found. Mr. Jackson then questioned our Hero if he left her at home in the morning. He answered in the affirmative ; but said he believed she did not see him go out. Mr. Jackson began now to be dreadfully apprehensive that some villain, knowing of the absence of the family, had murdered the girl, and robbed the house. It was not, however, a time to hesitate. A ladder was borrowed ; by the help of which one of the young gentlemen entered a chamber window, and soon opened the door to the rest. Mr. Jackson's first care was to see that his most valuable effects were safe ; while the rest of the family employed themselves in searching for the unfortunate Jenny, who was at length discovered in the arbor ; but so fast locked in the arms of sleep, that they could not possibly wake her. She was therefore conveyed to her bed, where being left in the care of Mrs. Jackson and her maids, they soon discovered that uncommon violence had been used towards her : yet no suspicion fell on young Twitcher.

It

It was now late in the Evening; yet it was thought necessary to send for a Physician and Apothecary; for whom a messenger was dispatched to a neighbouring town. These Gentlemen, being informed of her situation, declared themselves incapable of giving her any assistance till she should awake, which did not happen till noon the next day; so powerful was the dose that our hero had given her. The poor girl was in a very weak and shocking condition, and it was much doubted if her life was not in danger: but proper care being taken of her, she soon began to grow better; and at the end of four days, requested Mrs. Jackson would attend her, without any other person being present. To this lady did she unfold her horrid secret, without disguising or palliating a single circumstance respecting her connection with young Twitcher. Mrs. Jackson having heard her tale, enjoined her not to mention a single syllable of it to either of the maids; undertaking herself to disclose it to Mr. Jackson, in hopes of his having interest enough with Lord *****, to procure her some pecuniary acknowledgement for the injury she had sustained; and to get some punishment inflicted on the offender.

Mrs. Jackson lost no time in imparting the
secret

secret to her husband, who had no sooner learnt the particulars, than he sat down to write a faithful narrative of the whole affair to Lord *****, requesting his Lordship to take such measures as his Wisdom and humanity might dictate. In the mean time Mr. and Mrs. Jackson behaved with their usual politeness towards our hero, so that he had not the least suspicion that the knowledge of his crime had reached their ears.

Lord ***** had no sooner read Mr. Jackson's narrative of the horrid transaction, than he determined on the part he would act. He therefore wrote a letter to that Gentleman, informing him that he would immediately visit him; and desiring that young Twitcher might be kept out of the way, so as not to know of his arrival till it should be proper to divulge it. This was accordingly done; and his Lordship's arrival was totally unknown to the Son.

Lord *****'s plan was simply this—to expose young Twitcher before all his school fellows; to see what effect a sense of shame might have on a mind, apparently dead to every sense of honour. The young Gentlemen, therefore, were ordered to assemble in the school-room;

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and

and every lad having taken his place, Lord ***** entered the room attended by the Master. Our hero now first knew of his father's arrival; and suspecting that his villainies were discovered, paid his compliments rather in an awkward manner. His Lordship and Mr. Jackson having taken their seats, and the boys being all attention, their preceptor, in a short, but very solemn and animated speech, explained the occasion of that extra meeting; but without even hinting at the culprit. He was seconded by Lord *****, who demanded of the young gentlemen, what punishment they thought adequate to the offence which was the subject of their deliberations. Several of the Senior Scholars entered into the merits of the case, and expressed themselves with sufficient indignation against the author of such complicated evils. All of them agreed that the offender ought to undergo some very severe punishment; and some of them hinted that death itself was the only punishment in any degree adequate to the crime. Lord ***** then informed them, with tears in his eyes, that his son was the infamous wretch who had dared to perpetrate the villainy; but that his baseness should not go unpunished. That he would immediately remove him from the academy, that the contagion of his example might

might not reach any future scholars less virtuous than themselves: and that he would devise some punishment, which, if it did not induce him to reform his conduct, should at least convince him that disgrace is the certain consequence of vicious actions.

The assembly now broke up; and Lord ***** having paid Mr. Jackson in a liberal manner for the care he had taken of his Son, and presented the unfortunate Jenny with a purse of gold, took our Hero with him to London; resolving to remove to a greater distance from his sight, a youth that seemed born to entail disgrace on his family. What were the consequences of his Lordship's resolutions; together with the sequel of his history, will be found in the following Chapter.

C H A P. VI.

Our hero is embarked on board a Ship for New York. He Effects his escape, and arrives in London. His subsequent conduct, till his Marriage. He is elected a Member of parliament. The conclusion of this History.

LORD ***** employed every minute of the time from his leaving the Academy, till

his arrival at his house in London, in representing to our Hero the repeated faults and follies he had been guilty of, and particularly the enormous villainy of his late conduct: and conjured him by every tender tie, to resolve on a thorough reformation of his life. But the hardened Twitcher paid no regard to his father's remonstrances, nor spoke a single word in reply to all he said.

His Lordship was at length fully determined what part to act; and had no sooner arrived at his house in town, than locking our Hero in a room from which it was impossible he should escape; instantly sought lady *****, and acquainted her with his resolution. This was no other than to send the unruly Youth to North America; that, if he was resolved to continue his irregular courses, he might be at least so far removed, that they should not be so frequently shocked with an account of his enormities, as they had hitherto been.

On the day following his arrival in London, Lord ***** went into the City, to consult with a Merchant of his acquaintance, on the best method of disposing of his Son. By this gentleman his lordship was recommended to the Captain

tain of a vessel bound for New-York, who had already taken in his lading, and was to sail in three days at farthest. A bargain was soon made between his Lordship and the Captain, the latter being made acquainted with so much of our Hero's character, as was thought necessary to prevent his escape, when the ship might touch at any port. The Merchant having, by his Lordship's desire, delivered to the Captain letters of credit on his Correspondents at New York, for the support of young Twitcher, his Lordship took his leave of those gentlemen, highly satisfied with the success of his enterprize.

Lord ***** now gave his servants positive orders to keep a strict eye on their young Master; and at the expiration of three days, took him in a hackney-coach to Wapping, and immediately went on board the Ship, where they found the captain, making preparations to sail in a few hours. His Lordship attended his Son as far as Gravesend, in their way to which place he informed him of his resolution; strictly enjoining him not think of returning to England without permission; but to continue at New-York till he should receive letters of recall; which he was assured should be sent as soon as advices were received

received that he had, even in a moderate degree, reformed his conduct.

His Lordship went on shore at Gravesend ; and the Vessel proceeded, with a fair wind to the Downs. Our Hero had, at this time, very little, if any money ; and was therefore unable to bribe the Captain to connive at his escape ; which was the first thought that occurred to him. He began, however, to make his Court to the Master of the Vessel, insinuating that he had been trepanned on board ; and making immense promises, on condition that he might be permitted to go on shore : but the captain was too well instructed to listen to any thing he said. In the mean time the ship continued her way, and at length touched at Falmouth, to take in two passengers. This was the last chance that our Hero had of escaping, and he was determined not to miss the opportunity : he therefore cast his eyes on a stout young Sailor, to whom he made the greatest offers, on condition that he would assist him in getting on shore and go with him to London. The Young fellow listened to, and accepted his proposals ; flattering himself that the patronage of a nobleman's Son, might advance him to a better station than that of a Sailor in a trading Vessel.

The

The plan was concerted; and in the middle of the night our Adventurers slipped gently down the side of the Ship, into the boat, which had been hoisted out to carry the Captain on shore in the afternoon. The Young Sailor rowing admirably well, they were soon on dry land: but instead of taking the road to London, they struck a-cross the country, walking at a great rate till break of day, by which time they conceived themselves to be full twenty miles from the Ship. They therefore halted to refresh themselves at a solitary alehouse: and then enquiring the road to London; pursued their journey with equal alacrity and success.

On their arrival in town our Hero repaired immediately to his father's, and demanded an audience of his Lordship. He was admitted; told his story; promised a total reformation of his conduct; and, in fine, acted the hypocrite so perfectly, that his faults were forgiven, and he was once more considered as one of the family.

Ample cause as he had to be grateful to the Sailor; he felt no inclination to be so—gratitude was not one of young Twitcher's foibles:—he therefore only considered how he should

should get rid of the young fellow. For this purpose he returned to a public house where he had left him ; and told him that he had in vain exerted all his eloquence with his father in his behalf ; but that so far from any disposition to reward him, his Lordship threatened to have him punished if he could find him : and that therefore he must wait for a recompence for his services till he himself should be Earl of *****. This was all the satisfaction the Young fellow had for his trouble ; and he departed, Cursing the Credulity of his temper, which had thrown him out of his employment.

Our Hero now determined what part to act. Hypocrisy was the road by which he hoped to arrive at the gratification of his passions. He therefore, from this period, assumed the appearance of such perfect reformation, that it is no wonder Lord and Lady ***** were the dupes of his artifice. He wore this mask for more than four years ; during which time he abounded in money, and indulged himself in the commission of every vice. But his proceedings were carefully secreted from the knowledge of his parents. In the course of his Licentious Amours during the period abovementioned, no less than fifteen women, of at least reputed virtue, fell

fell a sacrifice to his infernal practices. Perhaps no man ever carried the art of seduction to so enormous a height. A folio volume might be filled with the bare recital of his illicit Amours : but they too much resemble each other in the baseness of contrivance and execution, to afford either satisfaction or improvement to the reader. Suffice it therefore to say, that when he had run a long course of vice and debauchery, he thought of making the *Amende Honorable* by marriage ; agreeable to the too prevalent custom among our nobility and gentry.

With this view he cast his eyes on a young Lady, not less distinguished by her rank in life, than by the superior elegance of her person, and the amiable dignity of her mind. Such was the Woman destined to be sacrificed at the shrine of lust and avarice! — Lord ***** was soon acquainted with the choice his Son had made : and as there could not be the shadow of an objection to the Lady, determined to ask her in marriage for young Twitcher ; flattering himself that this choice was an earnest of his compleat return to the paths of Virtue. But it ought, in justice to his Lordship's Character, to be observed, that if he had been acquainted with the abandoned course of life our Hero had led, he

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would

would not have solicited the alliance. As it was, however, he did not hesitate to do it, on a supposition that his Son's life, for some years past, had been as Virtuous as those of the generality of our young men of Fashion.

The preliminaries were soon adjusted; and the abandoned Twitcher became the husband of one of the most amiable Women in the Kingdom. The Youthful debauchee now became the tyrant husband; nor abated in any degree his attachment to the sex in general. This was a source of infinite calamity to his Lady: but her only resource lay in the patient endurance of her sufferings. In less than twelve months from the celebration of the nuptials, her Ladyship was delivered of a son, who is at this time as much superior to his father in every manly grace and accomplishment, as in every interior virtue of the mind.

Not long after the birth of this son, our Hero communicated a disorder to his lady, the mention of which should not have found a place in this volume, but from a regard to historical truth. Her Ladyship experienced a perfect, tho' not a speedy cure: but the remembrance of
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this disagreeable circumstance has ever since hung heavy on her mind.

Very soon after his Marriage our Hero obtained a seat in parliament. How he behaved while in that station, his Countrymen yet remember with indignation. He had been entrusted with the public concerns, as member, but a few Years, before the death of his father elevated him to a higher rank. The family Estate fell to him of course ; but Lord ***** could not form so good an opinion of him as to leave him any of his ready money. His mother died soon after her Lord, and left her son her blessing and advice :—but he has not yet profited by either. Since that period his life has been a continued round of raking and gaming : except, now and then, when he has stolen an hour, to concert some plan of mischief toward his Country in general ; or to draw down vengeance on the head of some devoted individual.

It would be foreign to the purpose of this History, as well as imprudent in the Writer of it, to trace his conduct farther. With all his faults ; and which, perhaps, renders them greater,

greater, he is a Man of uncommon sense and penetration. Suffice it therefore to say, that he lives, **A MONUMENT OF SUPERIOR ABILITIES, PROSTITUTED TO THE WORST OF PURPOSES!**

F I N I S.